Applicants: RIESS et al. Serial No. 09/899,852

Response to Office Action mailed July 21, 2005

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows.

On page 16, paragraph 70:

In an embodiment using [[an]] <u>a</u> general constellation, the denominator in Equation 16 may be adjusted according to the number of constellation points for each axis:

$$\hat{P}_{1_{J}}^{q} = sign(q_{J}) \cdot \frac{\hat{P}_{1_{J}}^{max}}{M_{J} - 1} \cdot (2|q_{J}| - 1) : q_{J} \in [-M_{J}, M_{J}]$$
(17)

where M_J is the number of points along the J^{th} axis of the constellation and q_J is the index along a J^{th} axis of the constellation.